

RESOLUTION NO. 20050512-040

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

WHEREAS, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (hereinafter referred to as "TPWD") has a separate account in its general revenue fund referred to as the Texas Recreation and Parks Account (hereinafter referred to as "TRPA") for the purpose of providing matching grants to political subdivisions for parks and recreation development in Texas; and

WHEREAS, grants to political subdivisions under the TRPA and Local Park Fund guidelines have funded 931 projects of 2,721 projects submitted over 25 years delivering over 603 million dollars to the local Texas economy; and

WHEREAS, the matching grants provided by the TPWD create partnerships with local governments through planning, acquisition, and/or development of park and recreational, or open space areas to be owned and maintained by the political subdivisions at no cost to the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the TRPA is funded from sales tax on sporting goods; and

WHEREAS, the development of new parks and recreation programs stimulates the purchase of more sporting goods thus increasing sporting goods tax revenues and the TRPA; and

WHEREAS, the development of parks encourages and promotes economic development, job creation, education, public health, corporate relocations, good quality of life as well as juvenile crime prevention; and

WHEREAS, political subdivisions throughout the State of Texas depend on grants from TPWD through the TRPA to stimulate the acquisition and development of local parks and recreational areas for the mental and physical health of their citizenry; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City Council that a copy of this resolution with appropriate names affixed hereto be presented to the Governor of Texas and to the leadership of the 79th Texas Legislature; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

The members of the 79th Legislature of Texas are urged to restore the funding for the Texas Recreation and Park Account to its original level prior to the 78th Legislature and that all grant requests be subject to the fair and competitive scoring system developed through public hearings held by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

ADOPTED: May 12, 2005

ATTEST: Shirley A. Brown
Shirley A. Brown
City Clerk